



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

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GOVERNOR

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STATE SUPERINTENDENT

December 9, 2014

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Martin Ackley, Director, Office of Public and Governmental Affairs

SUBJECT: State and Federal Legislative Update

MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The House Education committee did not meet in the month of November and has not met as yet in the month of December.

HB 4454 (Segal) The bill prohibits religious holiday absences from being counted against a student's attendance record. The bill was passed by the House of Representatives by a vote of 95-14.

[http://www.legislature.mi.gov/\(S\(oqvzmofqf3wpat45i1zdnq45\)\)/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectname=2013-HB-4454&query=on](http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(oqvzmofqf3wpat45i1zdnq45))/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectname=2013-HB-4454&query=on)

HB 4539 (Schmidt) was passed in the House of Representatives by a vote of 56-53 as a substitute H-1. The substitute repeals the sales tax on gasoline over six years. Beginning January 2016, the sales tax would be 5 percent; in 2017 it would decrease to 4 percent; in 2018 it would decrease to 3 percent; in 2019 it would decrease to 2 percent and in 2020 it would decrease to 1 percent. If the appropriations in the School Aid budget or if funds distributed to municipalities through revenue sharing decreases to an amount less than the previous year, then the sales tax will go back to 6 percent.

<http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2013-2014/billengrossed/House/pdf/2013-HEBH-4539.pdf>

HB 5597 (Zemke) The bill removes the Jan 1, 2015 sunset prohibiting districts from establishing a new district library after that date. The bill was passed by the House of Representatives by a vote of 109-0.

[http://www.legislature.mi.gov/\(S\(oqvzmofqf3wpat45i1zdnq45\)\)/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=2014-HB-5597](http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(oqvzmofqf3wpat45i1zdnq45))/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=2014-HB-5597)

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HB 5868 (Price) The bill guarantees continuation of a district library in case of municipal reorg, annexation, merger or consolidation. The bill was passed by the House of Representatives by a vote of 109-0.

[http://www.legislature.mi.gov/\(S\(oqvzmofqf3wpat45i1zdnq45\)\)/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=2014-HB-5868](http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(oqvzmofqf3wpat45i1zdnq45))/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=2014-HB-5868)

New House Legislation

HB 5978 (Brown) requires data report regarding public school openings and closings. The bill was referred to the committee on Education.

[http://www.legislature.mi.gov/\(S\(oqvzmofqf3wpat45i1zdnq45\)\)/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=2014-HB-5978](http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(oqvzmofqf3wpat45i1zdnq45))/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=2014-HB-5978)

MICHIGAN SENATE

SB 1075 (Richardville) Genocide Education Curriculum requirements. SB 1075 was reported from the Senate as a substitute S-2 with a vote of 37-0. Changes in the substitute include:

1. The bill "encourages" genocide education and no longer requires it in schools
2. An advisory committee regarding genocide shall be created. The creation of this committee shall have no fiscal impact on schools.
3. The use of the word "MEAP" in the legislation shall be replaced with "MSTEP".

[http://www.legislature.mi.gov/\(S\(0rkln3fkerru0i551p2uzp55\)\)/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=2014-SB-1075](http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(0rkln3fkerru0i551p2uzp55))/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=2014-SB-1075)

SB 74 (Anderson) requires cyberbullying to be defined and addressed in anti-bullying policy and requires reporting. The bill was placed on 2nd reading in the Senate as a substitute S-2.

[http://www.legislature.mi.gov/\(S\(oqvzmofqf3wpat45i1zdnq45\)\)/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=2013-SB-0074](http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(oqvzmofqf3wpat45i1zdnq45))/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=2013-SB-0074)

New Senate Legislation

SB 1151 (Schuitmaker) Modifies compulsory attendance requirements. The bill was referred to the Committee on Education.

[http://www.legislature.mi.gov/\(S\(15yio32mupvhnj55ldq30rnq\)\)/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=2014-SB-1151](http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(15yio32mupvhnj55ldq30rnq))/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=2014-SB-1151)

SB 1152 (Schuitmaker) Provides a policy for intervention of chronically truant and/or absent students. The bill was referred to the Committee on Education.

[http://www.legislature.mi.gov/\(S\(15yio32mupvhnj55ldq30rnq\)\)/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=2014-SB-1152](http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(15yio32mupvhnj55ldq30rnq))/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=2014-SB-1152)

SB 1153 (Pavlov) Revises how suspensions, expulsions, truancy and absenteeism is reported. The bill was referred to the Committee on Education.

[http://www.legislature.mi.gov/\(S\(15yio32mupvhnj55ldq30rnq\)\)/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=2014-SB-1153](http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(15yio32mupvhnj55ldq30rnq))/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=2014-SB-1153)

FEDERAL UPDATE

Future Ready Districts

President Obama hosted “ConnectED to the Future,” a convening with more than 100 superintendents and other educators who will lead their schools and districts in the transition to digital learning. ConnectED initiative is a plan to connect 99% of America’s students to high-speed Internet – with the launch of the Future Ready District Pledge. By signing on to this pledge, superintendents recognize the importance of building human capacity within schools and districts for effectively using greater connectivity and new devices to transform teaching and learning.

Specifically, the President led a digital pledge-signing ceremony with attending superintendents, joined virtually by hundreds of education leaders from across the country.

Over the next year, the U.S. Department of Education (USED), in partnership with the Alliance for Excellent Education, will host 12 Future Ready Regional Summits to support district leaders in using technology to transform learning. The summits are designed to help districts create and implement district-wide action plans. They will be open to all district leaders that take the Future Ready District Pledge.

Educator Equity

Secretary Duncan announced the “Excellent Educators for All” initiative, designed to move the nation toward the day when every student in every public school is taught by excellent educators. As part of the initiative, consistent with the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act* (ESEA), each state must submit to the Department a complete state plan that ensures “poor and minority children are not taught at higher rates than other children by inexperienced, unqualified, or out-of-field teachers.” State plans are due on June 1, 2015.

ESEA Flexibility

In September 2011, the U.S. Department of Education (USED), offered each state the opportunity to request flexibility from certain requirements of ESEA, as amended by the *No Child Left Behind Act*, in exchange for rigorous and comprehensive state-developed plans designed to improve educational outcomes for all students, close achievement gaps, increase equity, and improve the quality of classroom instruction. Most of these waiver requests expire at the end of the current school year, and the agency is offering renewals to states that want to extend flexibility and continue the progress they have made in the last three years. States may request a three-year renewal, through the 2017-18 school year. Some states will be invited to request a four-year renewal under an expedited review process.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding these or other legislative issues, please contact me at (517) 241-4395.